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caulis, he indicated two species, *N. denudata* and *N. foliosa*. Bentham regarded the two species as one, in which he was probably right, the more so as Nuttall says they grow together and perhaps are not distinct; and to the combined species he gave the name of *N. Nuttallii*, obviously because neither of Nuttall's names was properly applicable to the species as he regarded it. This mode of proceeding has not been rare in similar cases, and in the present instance seems to be quite justified, if not actually demanded, by the rule that false names are inadmissible.

Note on *Sarracenia variolaris*.*

Last March I had in my room, in Gainesville, Florida, a vase full of *Sarracenia variolaris* (Yellow pitcher plant), and my attention was attracted towards one blossom which failed to open all of its petals. Examining it, I found that two of these, opposite each other, clung by their tips to the center of the umbrella-shaped style and were fastened securely there. Using a little force, I tore the tips of the petals off, instead of pulling them assunder as I had expected to do. I then opened the style with a pin and found that the tips of the petals had penetrated the style and had reached nearly or quite to its base.

After that I examined all the blossoms of *S. variolaris* that I could gather, and noticed a considerable number of variations. I saw the first case repeated in one instance, but this time there was only *one* petal connected with the style.

The normal number of sepals and petals is five with the margins entire. I found irregularities both in the number and in the shape of these. Often there were notches in the petals, and these were sometimes found in the sepals too. The division was even carried so far that occasionally six petals would be found. There were also irregular notches in the umbrella-shaped top of the style. In several cases the yellow petals were marked with delicate reddish lines at the base.

MARY F. PEIRCE.

*COMMUNICATED BY DR. GRAY.—On examination of the style in some of the specimens supplied by Miss Peirce, we find that it is more or less hollow, the tube widening at the orifice. Perhaps there is a viscid secretion, by which the tips of the petals were stuck fast. This should be looked to next spring, on the living plants. We cannot make out what is meant by the tips of the petals having "penetrated the style."

ASA GRAY.